

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00

AGR-10 TRSE-00 IGA-01 /126 W  
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R 201410Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9463

INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS LONDON 04318

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, PFOR

SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE ON FOOD  
PRODUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

REF: LONDON 2788

1. COMMONWEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT WAS HELD IN LONDON MARCH 4-12. WHILE IT RECEIVED LITTLE NOTICE FROM LONDON PRESS (UK DEVELOPMENT MINISTER JUDITH HART WAS MOVED TO WRITE TO THE TIMES ABOUT THE LACK OF COVERAGE), CONFERENCE WAS CONSIDERED HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BY COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT AND UK OFFICIALS. MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS FROM 33 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN PLENARY AND TECHNICAL  
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SESSIONS SEEKING WAYS OF INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION

AND ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS. HEADS OF COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENTS WILL BE URGED TO GIVE HIGHEST PRIORITY TO DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES DURING THEIR APRIL MEETING IN JAMAICA.

2. IN FINAL REPORT OF CONFERENCE COMMONWEALTH WAS URGED TO DEVOTE ITSELF TO SOLVING WORLD FOOD PRODUCTION PROBLEMS INCLUDING FISHERIES AND FOREST OUTPUT. OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE WAS ACCEPTANCE IN REPORT THAT DEVELOPING COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES SHOULD PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO LAND REFORM, PRICING OF FARM PRODUCTS AND EXTENSION SERVICES. MINISTERS ALSO IDENTIFIED NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF FERTILIZERS. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT WAS REQUESTED AND AGREED TO SET UP NEW DIVISION CONCERNED WITH RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

3. PAUL LUSAKA (ZAMBIAN MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT), JOE MUNGAI (TANZANIAN MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE) AND SALAHUDDIN AHMED (BANGLADESH CHARGE IN ROME AND FAO DEL) WERE CITED BY ODM OFFICIALS AS BEING MOST EFFECTIVE LDC REPS AT MEETING. MUNGAI'S BRILLIANCE WAS CITED BY SEVERAL OBSERVERS WHO WERE IMPRESSED WITH HIS EFFORTS TO REACH LDC/DC CONSENSUS. REPRESENTATIVES FROM KENYA, GUYANA AND WESTERN SAMOA WERE ALSO CITED FOR POSITIVE IMPACT ON PROCEEDINGS.

4. CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS, SPEECHES AND AGENDA FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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